UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/571
S/1998/1027
3 November 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 2 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 28 October 1998, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 29 and 30 October 1998.

On 29 October, 31 military aircraft (28 F-16s, 1 CN-235 and 2 KC-135s), as well as 1 military helicopter of the Turkish Air Force, entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations. Sixteen F-16s violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting towards a south-easterly direction. The CN-235, as well as the military helicopter, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostle Andreas. The 2 KC-135s, as well as 12 of the F-16s, exited the Nicosia flight information region towards a south-easterly direction.

On 30 October, five military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (two F-4s, two RF-4s and one CN-235) entered the northern Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations. The two F-4s and two RF-4s exited the Nicosia flight information region flying towards the Ankara flight information region. The CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying east of the area of the Cape of Apostle Andreas before exiting the Nicosia flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council

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resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. The frequency, intensity and large number of aircraft involved in the above violations are a further reminder of Turkey's offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Furthermore, these continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative